MENDOSOMA LINEATUM GUICHENOT 1848, FIRST RECORD IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, WITH A RE-EVALUATION OF THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF OTHER SPECIES OF THE GENUS *MENDOSOMA* (PISCES, LATRIDAE).

by

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ABSTRACT. - Specimens of *Mendosoma lineatum* recovered from the stomach contents of rockhopper penguins (*Eudyptes chrysocome*) and snoek (*Thyrsites atun*) at Gough Island represent the first record of this species in the Atlantic Ocean. In view of similar descriptions in the literature, fishes of the genus *Mendosoma* from the Pacific and Indian Oceans were compared with the specimens from Gough Island in order to re-evaluate the taxonomic status of the three nominal species, *M. lineatum* Guichenot, 1848, *M. elongatum* Kner, 1864, and *M. allporti* Johnston, 1881. All the specimens used in this study were found to belong to one species. Comments on the current knowledge of the biology of *M. lineatum* are given as well as remarks on two other species of this genus described by Guichenot, 1848.

RESUME. - Des exemplaires de *Mendosoma lineatum* dont certains ont été trouvés dans les contenus stomacaux de Gorfous sauteurs (*Eudyptes chrysocome*) et d'Escoliers (*Thyrsites atun*) à l'Ile Gough sont mentionnés pour la première fois dans l'océan Indien.

Des poissons du genre *Mendosoma* des océans indien et pacifique ont été comparés aux exemplaires de l'île Gough afin de préciser le statut taxinomique des trois espèces nominales *M. lineatum* Guichenot, 1848, *M. elongatum* Kner, 1864 et M. allporti Johnston, 1881, dont les descriptions dans la littérature étaient très semblables. Tous les exemplaires examinés ont été rapportés à une seule espèce.

Les données actuelles concernant la biologie de *M. lineatum* sont commentées et des remarques sont faites sur les deux autres espèces du genre décrites par Guichenot en 1848.

Key words : Latridae - *Mendosoma* - taxonomic status - Distribution - Biology.

The genus *Mendosoma* was created by Guichenot (1848) for three species from Chilean waters, *M. lineatum*, *M. coerulescens* and *M. fernandezianus*, all described by Guichenot (1848). *M. lineatum* was also reported from New Zealand (Hutton, 1873 ; Graham, 1953 ; Doak, 1972 ; Tong and Paul, 1978). New specimens of Guichenot's other two species were never reported again, and subsequent mention of these species in the literature (Fowler, 1944 and 1951 ; De Buen, 1959 ; Bahamonde and Pequeno, 1975) is based on Guichenot (1848). *Mendosoma allporti* was described by Johnston (1881) from Tasmania and is also reported by Last *et al.* (1983). Kner (1864 and 1865) described *M. elongatum* from Saint Paul Island in the Indian Ocean. This species was also reported by Blanc and Paulian (1957), Blanc (1961) and Hureau (1969).

Mendosoma lineatum was described from a single specimen and was not reported again in Chile until recently. Pequeno (1980) reported it from four specimens caught off Valdivia, southern Chile and provided a short review of the taxonomic history of the genus. However, in discussing the geographic distribution of *Mendososma* he overlooked *M. elongatum*, thus excluding the Indian Ocean from the range of this genus.

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In 1979 the junior author identified a specimen of *Mendosoma* collected at Gough Island in the South Atlantic Ocean and donated to the J.L.B. Smith Institute by Gideon Roussow.

Early in 1985, the senior author was asked to identify three small fishes that were pumped out of the stomachs of rockhopper penguins on Gough Island. These were also found to be members of the genus *Mendosoma*, previously not known from the Atlantic Ocean. Later in the same year, during the annual visit of the supply ship 'SA Agulhas' to the island, a few more specimens were found in the stomach contents of snoeck, *Thyrsites atun*, and one was taken by a gill net.

METHODS

Measurements follow Pequeno (1980) and were taken to the nearest 0.5 mm. Pectoral fin rays were counted on both side of the fish. Scale and gill-raker counts were made on the left side. The gill-raker at the angle of the arch is included in the lower limb count. Vertebral counts were obtained from radiographs made on photographic paper. Sex was determined in all but a few specimens in which the internal organs were not well preserved. Data on additional specimens of *M. lineatum* were taken from Pequeno (1980). The meristic data were incorporated into the frequency distributions of counts (Tables I-V). The morphometric data were back calculated from percent of SL to millimeters and were used in the plotting of various morphometric parameters against SL (Figs. 2-4). Data for the holotype of *M. allporti* were taken from the original description (Johnston, 1881) and were used in a similar fashion ; the measurements were transformed from inches to millimeters (1 inch = 25.4 mm). The standard length for the holotype of *M. allporti* is an estimate obtained from a calibration curve of the standard length against the total length of the material examined.

The specimens used in this work are deposited in the J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown, South Africa (RUSI) ; Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN) ; and the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria (NMW).

***Mendosoma lineatum* Guichenot** (Fig. 1)

Mendosoma lineata Guichenot, 1848 : 213 ; 1854, pl. 5, fig. 2 (type locality : Valparaiso Bay, Chile).
Mendosoma elongatum Kner, 1864 : 485 ; 1865 : 92, pl. 5, fig. 2 (type locality : Indian Ocean, Saint Paul Island).
Mendosoma allporti Johnston, 1881 : 54 (type locality : Tasmania, estuary of the Derwent).

Material examined (original species names) :
Mendosoma lineatum : MNHM A-147, holotype, 175.8 mm SL, Valparaiso, Chile ; MNHN 6174, 2 (113.4-114.5 mm SL), females, Chile, 1870 (gift from NMW) ; MNHN 9650, 5 (118.5-133.0 mm SL), 4 females, Saint Paul Island, coll. de l'Isle. RUSI 25465, 2 (70.5-74.1 mm SL), Gough Island, stomach contents of rockhopper penguin, coll. N. Klages, Oct. 1984 ; RUSI 26177, 1 (204 mm SL), male, Gough Island, gill-net, coll. N. Klages, Oct. 1985 ; RUSI 26178, 13 (66.2-101.7 mm SL), 4 females and 5 juveniles, Gough Island, stomach of snoek, coll. N. Klages, Oct. 1985 ; RUSI 26047, 1 (173.6 mm SL), male, Gough Island, coll. G. Rossouw, 1978.
Mendosoma elongatum : NMW 69847.4-6, syntypes, 3 (105.9-154.0 mm SL), 2 males, Indian Ocean, Saint Paul Island, Novara Expedition, 1857-59 ; MNHN 1884-155, 2 (137.5-148.2 mm SL), 1 female, Saint Paul Island ; MNHN 9504, 4 (125.7-146.0 mm SL), 1 male and 3 females, Saint Paul Island, coll. de l'Isle, 1878 ; MNHN 9505, 2 (150.2-154.5 mm SL), male and female, Saint Paul Island, coll. de l'Isle, 1878 ; MNHN 1959-91, 92, 93, 3 (132.7-198.0 mm SL), 1

female and 2 males, Saint Paul and Amsterdam Islands, coll. Grua ; MNHN 1968-28, 8 (92.1-156.9 mm SL), Amsterdam Island, Pointe de la Recherche, 38 m, coll. Captain Barbanton, 10 Feb. 1968 ; MNHN 1968-29, 3 (146-165) mm SL, Amsterdam Island, 40 m, coll. Captain Barbanton, 9 Feb. 1968 ; MNHN 1968-30, 4 (149-199 mm SL), females, Amsterdam Island, coll. Captain Barbanton, 18 Dec. 1967 ; MNHN 1980-1175, 4 (108.5-157.4 mm SL), Saint Paul and Amsterdam Islands, Campagne du "Cap Horn", 1977-78 ; MNHN 1980-1176, 3 (94.2-175.0 mm SL), 1 female, Saint Paul and Amsterdam Islands, Campagne du "Cap Horn", 1977-78.
Mendosoma allporti : RUSI 26176, 1 (240 mm SL), Tasmania, coll. P. C. Heemstra, 1975.

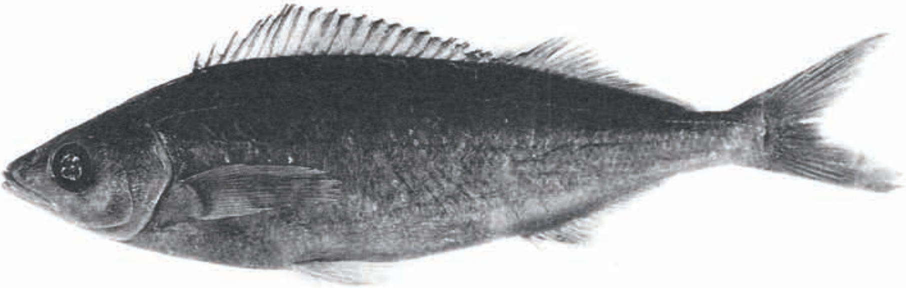

Fig. 1 : *Mendosoma lineatum*, RUSI 26047, 173.6 mm SL, male, Gough Island.

Diagnosis : Dorsal fin spines 22-25, dosal fin rays 23-27 ; penultimate dorsal spine shorter than last spine and following rays, thus forming a notched fin profile ; anal fin spines 3, anal fin rays 17-21 ; pectoral fin rays 16-19, the lowest 4-9 rays are simple but not thicker or longer than upper fin rays. Gill-rakers long and slender, 19-23 on lower limb. Body and head completely covered by small cycloid scales except for a small area in front of eye ; basal scaly sheath along dorsal and anal fins ; lateral line complete, extending well onto mid-caudal fin rays ; tubed lateral line scales 68-78, not including those on caudal fin rays ; scales between dorsal fin origin and lateral line 6-8 ; scales between lateral line and anal fin origin 14-15 ; vertebrae 42-46.

Body elongate and compressed, greatest depth 2.7-4.3, and head 3.5-4.4 in SL ; specimens larger than 100 mm SL may have a small hump behind the head, thus having a concave predorsal profile. Eye moderate to small, 3.5-4.5, and interorbital space 3.9-4.8 in head length ; snout pointed, 3.0-3.4 in head length ; two close-set nostrils in front of eye, at level of upper margin of orbit ; front nostril with a small posterior flap. Mouth small and highly protrusible ; upper jaw with a single row of small, conical teeth ; no teeth on lower jaw, vomer or palatines ; caudal peduncle short and slender, its length 5.9-7.6 in SL and its depth 1.4-2.3 in its length.

Colour : In alcohol, dark olive-green to brown above lateral line and somewhat lighter below ; some specimens much paler under level of pectoral fin, almost pale yellow. Some specimens with faint thin, dark horizontal lines along the lines of scales, usually below lateral line. Fins dusky to dark ; peritoneum brown, with dark spots. Juveniles (under 70 mm SL) were generally lighter than adults ; they were dark above lateral line but pale, silvery yellow below it. Two juveniles preserved in formalin were dark blue on the back and silvery white on lower two thirds of the body.

Distribution : Southern Chile ; New Zeland and Tasmania ; Saint Paul and Amsterdam Islands ; Gough Island.

DISCUSSION

The meristic characters exhibit quite a wide range, well demonstrated in the samples from Saint Paul and Gough Islands respectively (Table I-V). An especially wide range was observed in the number of lower simple pectoral fin rays (Table III) and tubed lateral line scales (Table V). About 12 % of the specimens had pectoral fins with unequal number of rays. In most of these specimens the number of lower simple pectoral fin rays were also unequal, usually with a correlation between these numbers. The difference between the total number of pectoral fin rays and the lower simple rays usually stood between 9 to 11. Cases in which the difference is either lower or higher are rare (4 of 61). Some specimens (6 of 61) had the same total number of pectoral fin rays on both sides but the number of simple rays was unequal. The holotype of *M. lineatum* had 18 rays on both pectoral fins, but five lower simple rays on the left side and four on the right side. One syntype of *M. elongatum* had a combination of 17 and 7 on the left side and 18 and 8 on the right side. The holotype of *M. lineatum* was unusual in having 46 vertebrae, but the other two Chilean specimens which we have examined had 42 and 43 vertebrae respectively. Unfortunately, Pequeno (1980) who reported the second finding of this species in Chile, did not provide the number of vertebrae for his specimens. The holotypes of both, *M. lineatum* and *M. allporti* were unusual in having 5 lower simple pectoral fin rays, but nonetheless fitting within the range of the whole sample (Table III).

Table I. Frequency distribution of dorsal fin spines and rays in specimens of*Mendosoma*. Data for *M. lineatum* are supplemented with data from Pequeno (1980), and data for the type of *M.* allporti were taken from Johnston (1881).

	D spines					D rays					
	22	23	24	25	n	23	24	25	26	27	n
M. lineatum (Chile)	2	*4	1		7		3	*3	1		7
M. elongatum (St Paul)	3	*18	19	1	41	1	5	*11	12	*12	41
Mendosoma (Gough Id)	2	10	4		16		2	9	3	2	16
M. allporti (Tasmania)		*2			2	1		*1			2

* = type specimen

Table II. Frequency distribution of anal fin rays and vertebrae in specimens of*Mensosoma*. Data for *M. lineatum* are supplemented with data from Pequeno (1980), and data for the type of *M. allporti* were taken from Johnston(1881).

	A rays						Vertebrae					
	17	18	19	20	21	n	42	43	44	45	46	n
M. lineatum (Chile)		*5	1	1		7	1	1			*1	3
M. elongatum (St Paul)	2	13	*17	8	*1	41	4	*34	3			41
Mendosoma (Gough Id)	3	4	9	2	1	19	2	15				17
M. allporti (Tasmania)		*1	1			2				1		1

* = type specimen

Table III. Frequency distribution of pectoral fin rays in specimens of *Mendosoma*. Data for *M. lineatum* are supplemented with data from Pequeno (1980), and data for the type of*M. allporti* were taken from Johnston (1881).

	Pectoral fin rays											
	Lower simple rays							Total				
	4	5	6	7	8	9	n	16	17	18	19	n
M. lineatum (Chile)		*1	1		1		3	4	1	*2		7
M. elongatum (St Paul)			2	*24	*12	2	40	2	*25	*13	1	41
Mendosoma (Gough Id)	2		5	2	2		11	7	10	1		18
M. allporti (Tasmania)		*2						*1	1			2

* = type specimen

Table IV. Frequency distribution of gill-rakers in specimens of*Mendosoma*. Data for *M. lineatum* are supplemented with data from Pequeno (1980), and data for the type of*M. allporti* were taken from Johnston (1881).

	Lower limb rakers					
	19	20	21	22	23	n
M. lineatum (Chile)		1	*5	1		7
M. elongatum (St Paul)	1	5	*20	*9	5	40
Mendosoma (Gough Id)		3	12	2		17
M. allporti (Tasmania)				1		1

* = type specimen

Table V. Frequency distribution of lateral line scales in specimens of *Mendosoma*. Data for the type of *M. allporti* were taken from Johnston (1881).

	Lateral line scales											
	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	n
M. lineatum (Chile)				*1		1				1		3
M. elongatum (St Paul)	*2	4	1	3	3	*7	5	*9	4	1	2	41
Mendosoma (Gough Id)		1			1		1		1	1		5
M. allporti (Tasmania)					1				*1			2

* = type specimen

While attempting to identify specimens of the genus *Mendosoma* collected at Gough Island in the central south Atlantic Ocean, it became obvious that the original description of *M. lineatum* Guichenot, 1848, *M. elongatum* Kner, 1864, and *M. allporti* Johnston, 1881, represent one species. Specimens of all three nominal species were studied in order to re-evaluate the taxonomic status of these species. The results of this study clearly show that there are no significant differences in either meristic (tables I - V) or morphometric (Fig. 2-4) characters among specimens of *Mendosoma* from the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans. Furthermore, the type specimens of these three species fit well within the range of meristic and morphometric characters demonstrated by the samples from Saint Paul and Amsterdam in the Indian Ocean and from Gough Island in the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, reports in the literature on specimens from New Zealand (Hutton, 1873) and Tasmania (Last *et al*, 1983) also agree well with our data. *Mendosoma elongatum*

Kner, 1864 and *M. allporti* Johnston, 1881 are therefore recognized here as junior synonyms of *M. lineatum* Guichenot, 1848.

In his detailed description of *M. elongatum*, Kner (1865) pointed out that the more slender body, smaller scales and the absence of black specks on the caudal fin separate *M. elongatum* from *M. lineatum*. The difference in body depth observed by Kner (1865) is size related (Fig 2). Looking at depth as a proportional measurement, the depth of the holotype of *M. lineatum* is 3.5 in SL, well within the range of 3.2-4.0 shown by the whole sample. Since Guichenot (1848) did not provide scale counts in the original description of *M. lineatum*, it appears that Kner (1865) obtained his count from Guichenot's illustration. We agree with Kner's (1865) count of 70 lateral line scales, but his count of the scale rows between the lateral line and dorsal fin origin is half what we counted on the holotype of *M. lineatum* (4 versus 8). Regarding the spots on the caudal fin, there are minute dark specks on all the fins of all the specimens we have seen, but they are part of the pigmentation of the

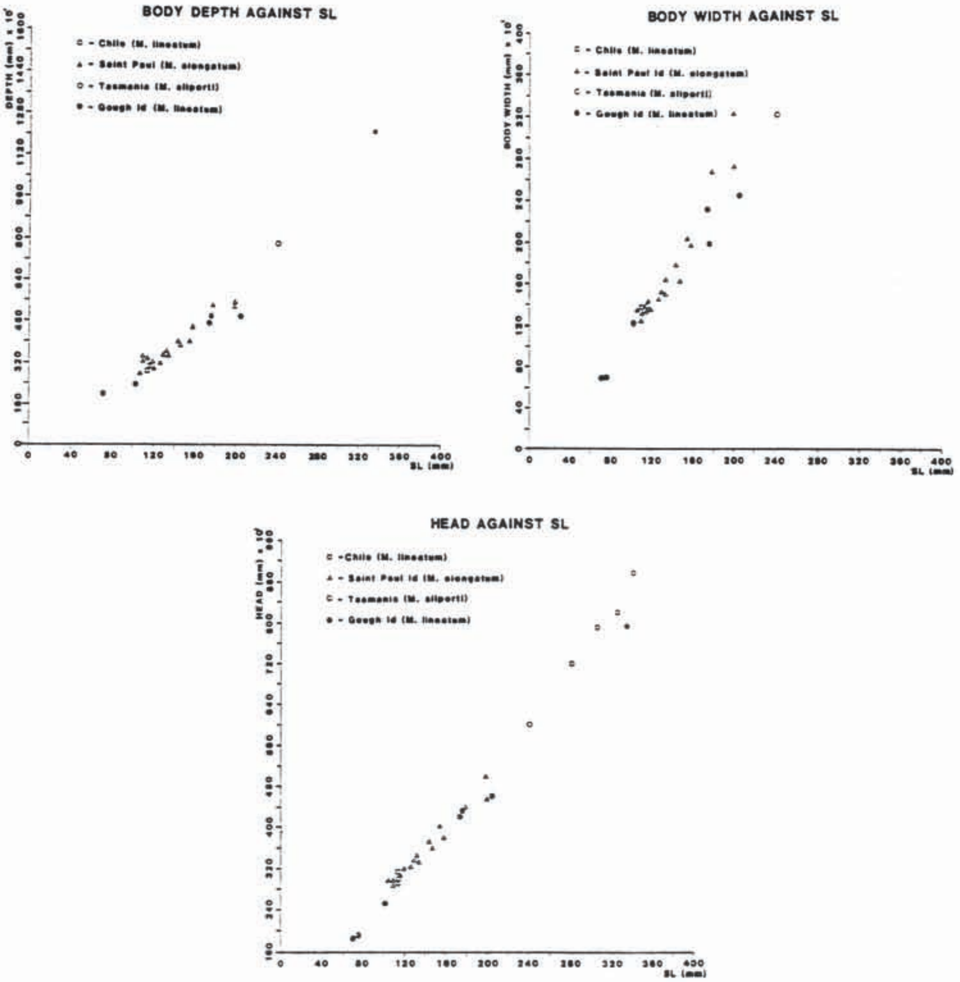

Fig. 2 : Scattergrams of measurements of body depth, body width and head length against standard length of *Mendosoma lineatum*. Full symbols represent type specimens.

fins and are quite indescernible without magnification. Comparison of the holotype of *M. lineatum* with specimens from other localities revealed no significant differences in the size of the specks. It should be noted, however, that there were differences among specimens in the density of these specks, which results in darker or paler fins.

Johnston (1881) did not compare his *M. allporti* with either *M. lineatum* or *M. elongatum*. His remark that the only species allied to his specimen seems to be *M. lineatum* from Chile, implies that his decision to describe his specimen as a new species was based on geographical distance;

Although the sample is too small in order to attempt a complete biometric analysis, the scattergrams of the morphometric parameters (Fig. 2-4) provide some indication about the growth pattern of *M. lineatum*. A plot of the fish weight against the standard length (Fig. 5) shows that the linear component of the weight-length relationship ends at about 120-140 mm SL. From this point, weight increases at a faster rate than length. Most morphometric parameters, however, do not divert

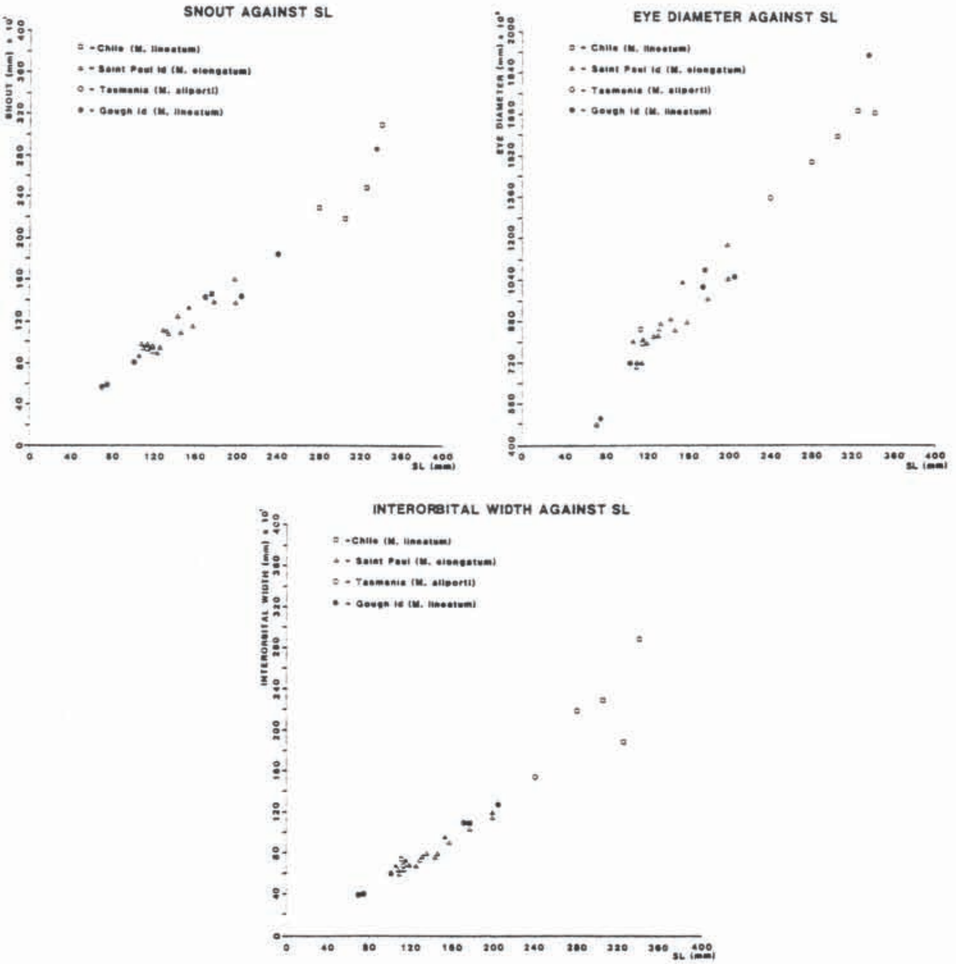

Fig. 3 : Scattergrams of measurements of snout length, eye diameter and interorbital width against standard length of *Mendosoma lineatum* Full symbols represent type specimens.

from the linear pattern until a length of about 22 cm SL. The outstanding character is the body width, which increases dramatically from a length of about 14 cm SL (Fig. 2). Thus, the rapide increase in weight is caused by rapid growth in another horizontal dimension rather than in a vertical one. A second change apparently occurs at about 22-24 cm SL, in which the growth rate of parameters such as head length, body depth, interorbital width and caudal peduncle depth (Fig. 2-4) becomes faster relative to the growth in length.

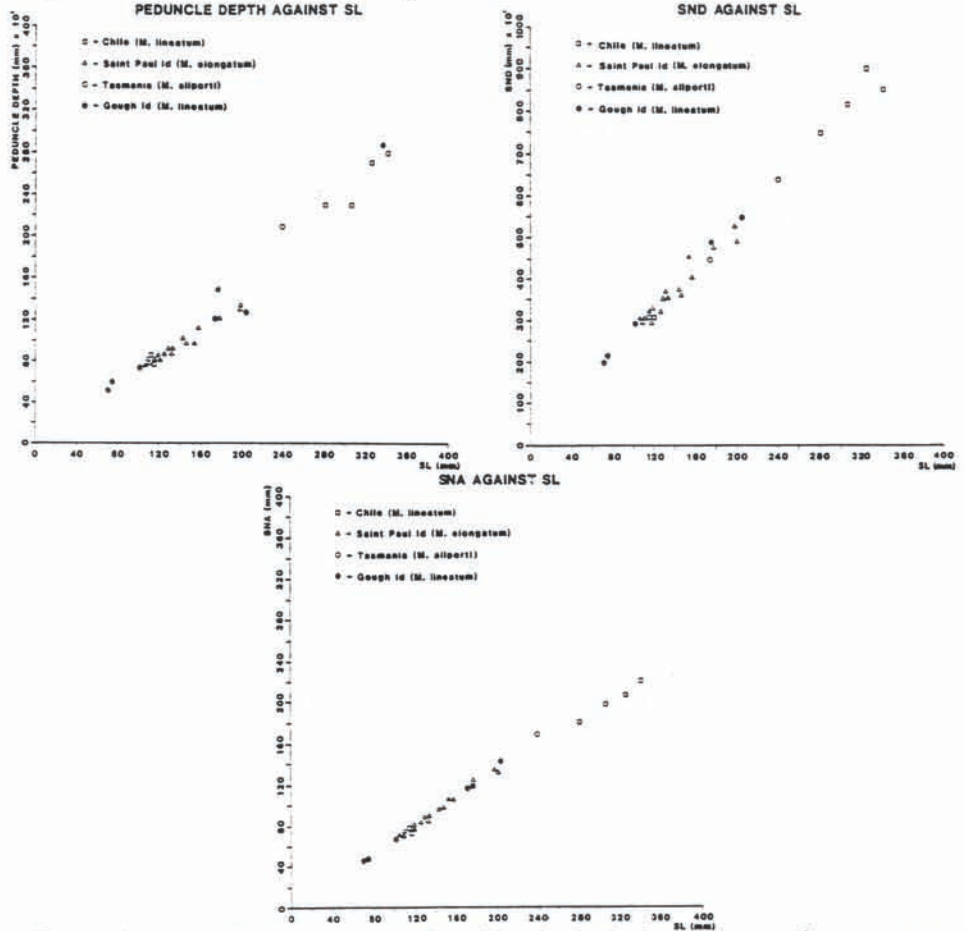

Fig. 4 : Scattergrams of measurements of caudal peduncle depth and distances from snout to origins of dorsal fin (SND) and anal fin (SNA) against standard length of *Mendosoma lineatum*. Full symbols represent type specimens.

The colour description of *M. lineatum* (Guichenot, 1848) is similar to that of *M. elongatum* (Kner, 1865), both mentioning horizontal lines on the body. Johnston's (1881) colour description of *M. allporti* is very short, relating to the general body colour without referring to any lines. The Tasmanian specimen we have examined had clearly outlined dark lines on its body. These lines were not always visible. They were quite faint or absent in most of the specimens from Saint Paul and Amsterdam Island and Gough Island. Tong and Paul (1978), in their comments on the families Cheilodactylidae, Latridae, Chironemidae and Aplodactylidae, remarked that colours in several species of these families, especially stripes, fade out markedly after death. This also seems to be true for *Mendosoma lineatum*. The largest specimen caught in Gough Island had bluish lines on its flanks that quickly faded away after death (Klages, pers. comm.). When we received the specimen, about 5 weeks after it had been caught, the stripes were barely visible. The blue spots on the body mentioned in reports from New Zealand (Hutton, 1873 ; Graham, 1953 ; Doak, 1972 ; Tong and Paul, 1978) are still visible on this specimen.

Pequeno (1980) suggested that the hump he observed behind the eyes in one of his specimens, may express sexual dimorphism. Most of our specimens larger than 100 mm SL, which are already sexually mature, had a small hump behind their eyes regardless of their sex. It should be noted, however, that our specimens were much smaller in length and their hump far less accentuated compared to the illustration in Pequeno (1980). It is more likely that his observation is age related.

The finding of specimens of *M. lineatum* in the stomach contents of both birds and fish at Gough Island implies that this species plays an important role in the marine ecology of the island. Little is known about the biology of *M. lineatum*. The results of this study indicate that its maximum size is about 35-40 cm SL. It in an inshore species found around rocky bottom in relatively shallow water (Tong and Paul, 1978 ; Last *et al*, 1983). The mouth, when fully protracted, is directed downward, thus implying bottom feeding. Last *et al*. (1983) found it mostly planktivorous, whereas Graham (1953) examined a specimen with a stomach full of the codlet *Bregmaceros punctatus*.

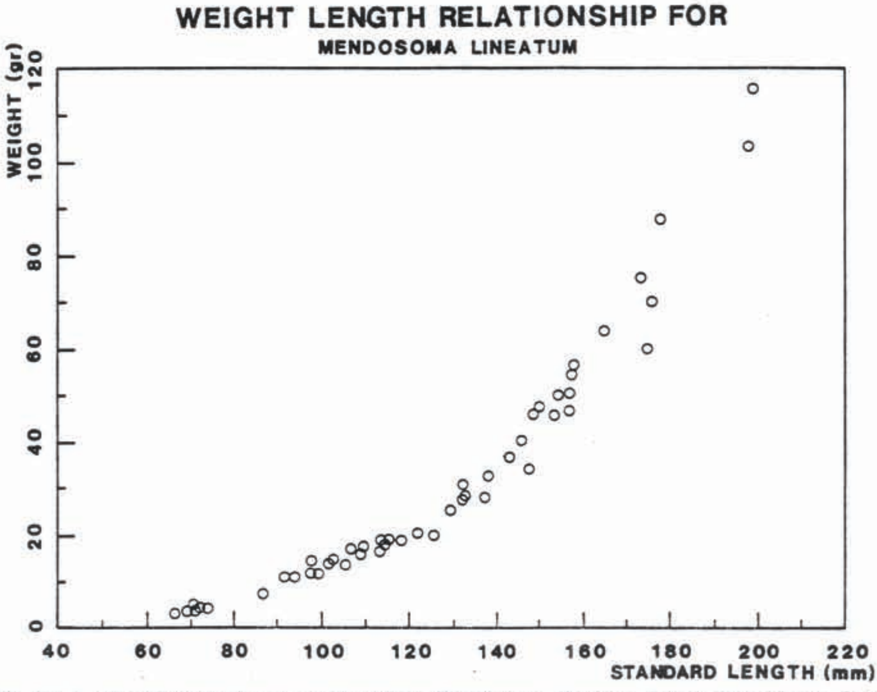

Fig. 5 : A plot of weight-length relationship in *Mendosoma lineatum*, based on specimens from Gough Island, Saint Paul Island and Chile.

The specimens taken from the stomachs of the penguins and snoek at Gough Island were juveniles and young adults, mostly smaller than 70 mm SL. Unlike the adults, some of these fishes were dark blue on the back and silvery below level of lateral line. This colour pattern, as well as their presence in the stomachs of the pelagic snoek, indicate that juveniles are probably leading a pelagic life style.

Judging by their size, the pelagic stage may last as long as whole year, thus explaining the distribution pattern exhibited by this species.

In addition to *Mendosoma lineatum*, Guichenot (1848) described two other species which he placed in the genus *Mendosoma*. *M. fernandezianus* was apparently described from a drawing. In any case, it is not a member of the genus *Mendosoma*, possibly not even a latrid fish, since it has 11 dorsal fin spines and, apparently, a single anal spine as well as teeth on both jaws. As for *M. coerulescens*, Guichenot (1848) himself was not confident in placing this species in *Mendosoma*, and his inadequate description provides no clues whatsoever. Our enquiries about the type specimens of these species, if they exist, produced no results. Types of these species may have never been deposited in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. No specimens of *Mendosoma* from Chile were found in the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, although two of the Chilean specimens of *M. lineatum* we have examined were donated by this museum (see material examined above). *Mendosoma coerulescens* and *M. fernandezianus* are therefore regarded as nomina dubia.

Acknowledgements. - This study was supported financially by the South African Department of Environment Affairs and the South African Scientific Committee for Antartic Research. We wish to thank M.L. Bauchot and M. Desoutter of the Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris ; B. Herzig of the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna ; N. Klages of the Port Elizabeth Museum, Port Elizabeth ; B. Ranchod and E.V. Matama of the J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology, Grahamstown, for loans and gifts of material and handling specimens. C.R. Jefferay helped with translations of spanish papers. R. Stobbs of the J.L.B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology kindly prepared the photograph.

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Reçu le 3.11.86.
Accepté pour publication le 9.1.87.